

SENATE RESOLUTION 106

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of champion Show Jumper Calypso on the occasion of his induction into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly honor and commend those persons and animals who bring great acclaim and national recognition to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Melanie Smith Taylor and her prized Dutch gelding, the late Calypso, are truly deserving of this Body's accolades; and

WHEREAS, the 16 hand and one-half inch Calypso, or "Lyps", as he was known around the barn, was ridden throughout his illustrious career by Ms. Taylor and was cared for by Syd Eustace Goodrich; together they claimed victory after victory in show jumping competitions; and

WHEREAS, at the age of six, Calypso won his first Grand Prix, the prestigious and challenging American Jumping Derby in Newport, Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Calypso carried Melanie Smith Taylor to the Reserve Championship in the World Cup Final in Baltimore, Maryland, and shortly thereafter, they were selected to compete as part of the United States Olympic Team scheduled to travel to Moscow; and

WHEREAS, however, as the United States boycotted the 1980 Olympic Games, the United States Equestrian Team opted to create a European Tour, and on this tour, Calypso earned top honors in the Grand Prix of Paris and at the Horse and Hound Cup at Wembley, as well as helping the U.S. team win the Nations' Cup in Dublin; this determined young horse also carried Ms. Taylor to the individual Bronze Medal in the "Alternate Olympics" in Rotterdam, the tour's concluding event; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Calypso and his talented rider emerged as World Cup Champions, winning the Final at Gothenburg, Sweden, and helped the U.S. team secure a fourth-place finish at the World Championships in Dublin, at which competition the pair placed tenth overall, the top U.S. finish in the Championships; and

WHEREAS, later that year, the dynamic duo won both the American Invitational and the American Gold Cup, two legs of the Show Jumping Triple Crown, which, along with their earlier Jumping Derby win, made them the only horse/rider combination ever to win all three Triple Crown events; and

WHEREAS, Calypso and Melanie Smith Taylor turned in another astounding World Cup performance in 1983, finishing third, before they led the U.S. Equestrian Team to victory in the Nations' Cup in Calgary; and

WHEREAS, after suffering an injury, Calypso was rested for the remainder of the year, but he had fully recovered in time to anchor the U.S. Gold-Medal winning team at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Calypso then won the largest show jumping purses to date in the \$150,000 (1984) and \$200,000 (1985) Grand Prix in Culpepper, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Calypso was retired to Melanie Smith Taylor's Germantown farm, where he was able, for the next 14 years, "to admire the young fillies in his pasture, to wallow in the lake, to snooze in the sun, and to munch on grass to his heart's content"; and

WHEREAS, fittingly, in 2002, Calypso was inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame, joining his beloved rider, Melanie Smith Taylor, in the ranks of this pantheon of equestrian greats; and

WHEREAS, this fine horse with tremendous talent, a big heart, and a brilliant mind passed on to his great reward in December 2002; and

WHEREAS, Calypso and his rider, Melanie Smith Taylor, brought immeasurable renown to equestrian sports and to the great State of Tennessee and should be honored for their manifold achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor the memory and accomplishments of Calypso, fondly noting his indomitable spirit and his levelheaded and determined nature, on the occasion of his induction into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.